

Shaw celebrates Month of the Military Child



Above, Ryan (left), the 3-year-old son of Staff Sgt. Catherine and Tech. Sgt. Edward Wood, picks the number eight, with help from Dad, in hopes of winning in the cake walk.



Photos by Fran Knox

Above, Alexis (left), 4-year-old daughter of Pamela and Staff Sgt. Todd Runnels, is one of several children getting their face painted by volunteers during a carnival in recognition of the Month of the Military Child. The carnival was sponsored by 20th Services Squadron April 1 at the Community Center. It was the first of many events planned this month by Shaw's Child Development Center, Youth Center, Community Center and the Family Childcare program, including Easter egg hunts, picnics and bowling.

Left, Emily plays the fishing game, looking for a good catch with help from a volunteer. Emily is the 4-year-old daughter of Dana and Staff Sgt. David Caudel. Emily won several prizes like flags, an art set, erasers and a paddle-ball. She and other participants were treated to free hamburgers, hotdogs and chips.

Dental health factor in deployment readiness

By Adriene M. Dicks
Correspondent

Health is a factor in servicemembers doing their part to meet the daily mission, here at Shaw and while deployed. The Shaw Air Force Base Dental Service's mission is to help maximize Shaw personnel's ability to do their jobs efficiently.

The dental clinic has a staff of approximately 40 people, including eight active-duty and two civilian dentists, as well as active-duty and civilian dental assistants.

According to Lt. Col. Robert Gamble, Chief of Dental Services, the primary focus of the dental clinic is readiness – readiness to complete Shaw's mission and readiness to deploy.

The dental clinic's part in readiness revolves around the Air Force Dental Readiness Assurance Program, which includes the periodic dental exam. According to Gamble, 90 percent of Shaw's personnel have been showing up for this annual exams in the last three months. Active-duty members are placed into one of three readiness categories, based on exam findings.

If a person fits into class one, they don't need any treatment. In class two, there is minor work, such as fillings, needing to be done. Members in class one or two are qualified for worldwide deployment. In class three, servicemembers are not deployable. This could be due to infection or severe pain that won't go away, according to Senior Master Sgt. Dennis Wilkinson, Superintendent of Dental Services. People may also be placed in class three if wisdom teeth become painful, gums become painful or if a root canal needs to be done. Gamble said being placed in class three includes any situation detected that would cause a person to go to the dental clinic for sick call within a year.

When it is time for someone's annual exam, the dental clinic coordinates with the unit health monitor. This person coordinates health-related appointments, including the Preventive Health Assessment.

"There needs to be effective communication between the dental clinic, the unit health monitors and

the servicemembers coming in for their exams," said Gamble. "It is important for the unit health monitors to relay the information to the members and, in turn, let us know who will and will not be able to show up for their appointments so we can reschedule those who may have a conflict with the set time."

Gamble said when personnel don't show up for exams, the dental clinic is really missing two appointments because another servicemember could have been scheduled at that time.

Annual exams are typically given a one-hour time slot. Once paperwork has been filled out, a dental technician greets the servicemember and begins the exam by taking the member's blood pressure and reviewing the member's health history. The dentist reviews the information collected by the technician and asks the patient for any concerns they have in order to determine the specifics for dental care needed.

"Some appointments don't take the whole hour because many servicemembers are in good dental health," said Gamble. "We need people to show up for their appointments in order to determine this."

Not only are the teeth checked for decay during the exam, but an oral cancer screening exam is performed, during which the lips, cheeks, throat and tongue are also examined for any sores, lumps or bumps that may need attention. A screening is also done for gum disease. This part of the exam takes about 10 minutes; the rest of the appointment is used for cleaning the teeth, providing personalized oral hygiene counseling and addressing any other questions the member may have for the dentist.

Shaw's dental clinic also provides emergency dental care if necessary. If a servicemember has what they believe to be a dental emergency after hours, they are instructed to call **895-CARE**.

"When a patient calls the CARE line with a



Photo by Adriene M. Dicks

Senior Airman Heather Vandevender, dental technician, cleans the teeth of Senior Airman Caesar Alvarado, 9th Information Warfare Flight, at the dental clinic for his annual exam March 31.

dental emergency, the on-call dentist is contacted for a telephone consult," said Gamble. "True emergencies, such as significant oral trauma, bleeding, infection or pain that is not relieved by over-the-counter medication, will be addressed immediately. Minor concerns, such as loose fillings or crowns, can generally be managed for the servicemember the next duty day."

Servicemembers can make routine and same-day appointments for urgent dental needs by calling **895-6108** Mondays – Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Gamble stressed the importance of teamwork to get the job done.

"If we work in unison with the individual members, unit health monitors, and commanders, we can do the best possible job of helping Team Shaw maintain a fit force ready to live up to the wing motto – Any challenge, Anytime, Anywhere."

Sprucing up housing for springtime

By Staff Sgt. Alicia Prakash
Staff writer

Free lawn care equipment and supplies are available to base housing residents. Items such as lawn mowers and stepladders are available year round, but grass seed and plants are seasonal items. The Housing Maintenance Office has a variety of plants available. If a resident wants a tree, he can order it now. The office does not keep trees on hand.

In addition to plants, they also have equipment. Electrical equipment is loaned out for 24 hours at a time. Non-electrical equipment may be borrowed for three days.

There is no charge for the items requested. All a resident must do is complete an issue receipt when he picks up the items.

Any family member in the household may borrow the supplies as long as he is over 18.

None of the items may be reserved. Equipment and supplies are issued on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sometimes, the line of customers wraps around the office building.

It may come down to the second as to who may

receive supplies, said Julius Mitchell, tool and parts attendant.

“All we ask of our customers is to be patient,” said Aaron Pruitt, tool and parts attendant.

The Housing Flight inspects all grounds in military family housing areas each Tuesday.

In addition to the normal mowing, edging, weeding and trimming of shrubs, the housing inspector look for cluttered carports, vehicles parked on the grass areas, unauthorized or unregistered vehicles. Seasonal decorations will also be area of interest.

Housing occupants are asked to refer to their housing brochure to ensure all aspects are in compliance.

“We appreciate the hard work of all our residents who obviously take great pride in the appearance of their homes,” said Master Sgt.

Darrell Allen, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron quality assurance inspector.

To take advantage of the equipment and supplies, visit the Housing Maintenance Office located in Building 5512, near the Sycamore Gate. The office is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 to 11:45 a.m.

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Quality Assurance inspector

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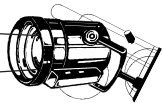
Spring things

- Fertilizer
- Mulch
- Landscape timbers (8’)
- Plants
- Grass seed
- Rake
- Shovels
- Post hole diggers
- Lawnmowers
- Edgers
- Hedge trimmers
- Pressure washer
- Lopping shears
- Bow saw
- Weed eater
- Extension cords (100’)
- Step ladder (6’)
- Fire ant killer bait

This is partial listing of items available to base housing residents. Some items are only available during spring. Contact the Housing Maintenance Office at 895-3515 for details.



Spirit Spotlight



Staff Sgt. Wade Throgmorton

Organization: 28th Operational Weather Squadron
Duty title: Training manager
Hometown: Columbia, S.C.
Time in service: 14 years
Family: Wife, Michele and 7-year-old son, Tyler
Off-duty interests: Spending time with my family, golfing, hunting and fishing
In his own words: “If a man does his best, what else is there?”

Repairing structure

Tech. Sgt. Patricia Logue (left), production superintendent, and Senior Airman Andrew Vincelletto, crew member of the 363rd Expeditionary Equipment Maintenance Squadron, both deployed from the 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron here, repair an office shelter during a sandstorm March 25. 363rd EEMXS members work 12-hour days, seven days a week, preparing precision-guided missiles to support Operation Iraqi Freedom at a forward deployed location in Southwest Asia.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Hannen

Reservists support Shaw's Fire Department

By Tech. Sgt. Chuck Hinrichs
Staff writer

What happens when Shaw and area residents call **911**? They are likely to get a response from firemen from as far away as Maine, California, Florida or elsewhere in the southeastern United States.

Air Force Reserve individual mobilization augmentees are now on active duty at Shaw's fire station.

The IMAs are here to provide fire protection for the Shaw community while several of the base's firefighters are deployed in support of the global war on terrorism, according to Senior Master Sgt. E.J. Rouvet, 20th Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Protection Flight superintendent.

The Reservists were reactivated for a year of duty in late March, said Rouvet. As of October, many IMA firefighters in the flight finished a year-long tour at Shaw following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

For some, being called to serve at Shaw is like coming home.

Senior Airman Jamey Thibodeau was stationed here 10 years ago as a fireman. Now, he's a civil servant at Brunswick Naval Air Station, Maine, where the temperature was 30 degrees when he got his orders to come to Shaw.

Besides appreciating warmer weather, Thibodeau said the next year should enhance his career. Additional training and the experience of working around

Shaw's aircraft and equipment will make him more valuable on his civilian job, he said.

Having experienced firefighters, like Thibodeau, to fill the ranks is a benefit to the squadron, according to Senior Master Sgt. John Conway, 20th CES assistant chief of fire protection. Conway, a Reservist from Dublin, Calif., has the longest tenure here among the IMAs. He's been on active duty since Oct. 2001 and expects to be at Shaw another year.

He said IMAs bring an added resource to the flight because of their military and civilian experience, which helps the Reservists make a smooth transition to full-time service.

"We are able to come here and get right to work," said Reserve Master Sgt. Randy Gardner, 20th CES station captain.

Conway agreed, saying the IMAs are fully integrated into the flight, including leadership jobs.

According to Rouvet, the Reserve NCOs are expected to fill roles as trainers, mentors and leaders.

While they are trained according to Air Force instructions, they sometimes bring new ideas from their home stations, said Conway.

But, the Reservists benefit more than Shaw's Fire Protection Flight, they also serve in local communities as volunteer firefighters. Many local fire companies are made up of active-duty volunteers, said Gardner. When those members deployed, Shaw's IMAs naturally filled the void.

Staff Sgt. C.W. Brown, 20th CES firefighter, is



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Chuck Hinrichs

Senior Airmen Jamey Thibodeau (left), and Harry Stark, 20th CES firefighters, connect hydraulic hoses to the jaws of life after maintenance to the system March 28. Thibodeau is a Reservist working alongside active-duty servicemembers and civilians at Shaw's Fire Department.

one such volunteer. He's a civilian fireman in Gaffney, S.C., now on active duty at Shaw and volunteering in Sumter County.

Gardner is also a local volunteer. "We're firefighters, it's what we do," he said.

"Everyone works together to save lives and property," said Rouvet. The IMA program is one Shaw has come to rely on, he added.